Internet access facilities in Gujarat

2960.SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether internet access facilities have been made available in all district Headquarters of Gujarat;

(b) if not, the district Headquarters where this facility is not available;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when these facilities would be made available at these Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Internet Dhabas

2961. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(e)whether Government had decided to set up internet dhabas in all the Block Headquarters in the recent past;

(f)if so, how many internet dhabas have since been set up;

(g)the Block Headquarters yet to be provided with internet dhabas; and

(h)by when the work would be accomplished in such Blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. So far 3451 Block Head quarters (BHQs) have been covered up with Internet Dhabas set up through franchisees out of a total 6308 BHQs. The remaining 2857 BHQs are likely to be provided with Internet Dhabas progressively during the Year 2003-2004 subject to the availability of franchisees and technical feasibility.